

## 2025 Fresno JACL Scholarships

The Fresno Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are planning to enter an accredited college or university, to continuing undergraduate students who are enrolled in a program at an accredited college or university leading to an undergraduate degree or to graduate students at an accredited college or university. The following are possible scholarships that may be awarded in the spring of 2025.

**Masao and Hana Kimura Scholarship** - The Kimuras owned and operated a grocery store in West Fresno for over 30 years. Since many customers at the store were of Japanese American descent, Hana Kimura made it preferable that the scholarship be made to a Japanese American student. It is \$2,000 paid in four \$500 annual installments, available only to entering freshmen with a GPA of 3.0 or better.

**Miyahara/Kusakai Scholarship** - This \$1,000 scholarship was established by the Miyahara and Kusakai families in memory of Hiro and Day Kusakai's son. The Kusakai's are Thousand Life Club members. Hiro Kusakai was a past president of the Fresno JACL.

**Dr. Henry Kazato Memorial Scholarship** - The original scholarship program began at the urging of Dr. Kazato in 1977 and was established by the Kazato Family. This \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to a student interested in the medical field.

**Barbara and Izumi Taniguchi Scholarship** – This scholarship was established by the Fresno Chapter Scholarship Fund. Barbara and Izumi Taniguchi were both past Fresno Chapter Presidents. Izumi Taniguchi passed away several years ago. Barbara continues to be a Thousand Club Member. The \$1,000 scholarship is now funded by the Fresno Chapter Scholarship Fund.

**Fred Y. and Setsu Hirasuna Scholarship** – This scholarship was established by the Fresno Chapter's scholarship fund in honor of Fred Y. Hirasuna. Fred was a past president. Before JACL was established as a national organization Fred was an active member of the Fresno American Loyalty League which subsequently became the Fresno Chapter of JACL. This \$1,000 scholarship is now funded from the contributions made by the Hirasuna Family.

**The Bertha and John Garabedian Foundation Scholarship** - This is a \$1,000 merit scholarship (two scholarships available) presented through the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation.

**Scholarship Applications** may be downloaded at the Fresno JACL Website: <http://www.fresnojacl.org> Information regarding the application process is on the application.

**NOTE:** Applicants of the Fresno Chapter may also be eligible to apply for scholarships available through the **Central California District Council of JACL** as well as the **JACL National Scholarship Program** Information can be found on the Fresno JACL website: <http://www.fresnojacl.org> and the National website: <https://jacl.org/jacl-national-scholarship-program/>

**APPLICATION DUE DATE: Friday, April 25, 2025.**

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
FRESNO CHAPTER  
2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
<http://www.fresnojacl.org/>  
Please type or print in ink

**APPLICANT**

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<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Middle</b>	
<hr/>			
<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>		
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<b>Name of Current School</b>			

**ELIGIBILITY**

Student applicants must be a current student member of Fresno Chapter – JACL. **To apply to become a student member of JACL, please visit the membership application webpage on the National JACL website at <https://jacl.org/member>**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**Write a minimum 200-word autobiography** (typed, double spaced). Please attach a small photograph of yourself. **In your writing, please answer the questions below.**

1. At which college/university do you plan to enroll in or are currently attending?
2. What major field of interest do you plan to pursue and why did you choose this field of study?
3. How has your volunteerism or civic engagement aligned with the mission of the Japanese American Citizens League and/or the Japanese American community?
4. What are your short and long-term goals?

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

Please include a copy of your high school or university transcripts and please add any scholastic honors or special recognition that you may have earned including the years that you received them.

**ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS**

Please list the school, work, and community activities in which you have been an active participant, i.e. student government, athletics, music, drama, clubs/organizations, volunteer, etc. Please include any positions held in clubs, activities or organizations and the years of involvement.

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Please ask an individual familiar with you to submit a letter of recommendation. This person may be a teacher, neighbor, employer, or family friend. Please address the following: the applicant's character, achievements, responsibilities, leadership, or any other qualities that you feel significant regarding this student.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This section will be confidential and will only be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

### EXPECTED EXPENSES:

Tuition	\$ _____
Room/Board	\$ _____
Books/Supplies	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

### EXPECTED FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

Parents	\$ _____
Grants	\$ _____
Scholarships	\$ _____
Student Loans	\$ _____
Personal Savings	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Please list any other dependents (with their respective ages), besides yourself, who your parents claim as tax exemptions. Also, indicate if they are currently enrolled or planning to enroll in college concurrently with you. If needed, you may submit an attachment with this information.

If you or your family has any financial hardship(s) that the Scholarship Committee should consider, please explain. If needed, you may submit an attachment with this information.

Students must also submit a copy of the FAFSA or a copy of the Financial Aid Statement submitted to the student's college or university.

I certify that the information submitted herewith is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants may email Randy Aoki, Scholarship Chair, at [raoki@csufresno.edu](mailto:raoki@csufresno.edu) with your completed scholarship application and required documents or send by U.S. postal mail to: Fresno JACL Attention: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 27485, Fresno, CA 93729-7485.

If mailing the scholarship application with required documents it **should be postmarked no later than Friday, April 25, 2025**. For more information, please contact: Randy Aoki, Scholarship Chair at [raoki@csufresno.edu](mailto:raoki@csufresno.edu)

**Remember to include the following:** 2025 Fresno JACL Scholarship Application, Autobiography, Academic Performance, List of Activities and Awards and a Letter of Recommendation.